AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for associating computer network identifications with network policies, said method comprising the steps of:

analyzing a network interface associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, including a first detector and a second detector, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface;

determining that the first detector that outputs a first netspec of the set of netspecs is more reliable in observing network interfaces than the second detector that outputs a second netspec of the set of netspecs;

awarding a higher priority to the first netspec than to the second netspec in response to the first netspec being output by the first detector and the first detector being more reliable than the second detector;

~~sorting the set of netspecs in a priority order based at least in part on the reliability of the detectors that output the netspecs, wherein detectors considered more reliable in observing network interfaces than other detectors are awarded priority in the sorting;~~

associating the network identifications made by the first and second netspecs of the set of netspecs with locations based at least in part on the priority order of the ~~set of~~ first and second netspecs; and

feeding associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement desired network policies.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the network interface module is a firewall, and a user of the client computer adjusts firewall settings to set network policies based upon location.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of associating the network identifications with locations comprises using a network probe to look up locations in a netspec database.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 7 ~~wherein~~ further comprising receiving modifications to the netspec database by a user of the client computer via a location setting module containing a user interface by which the users assigns a location to each of the netspecs or changes an existing location associated with each of the netspecs.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of feeding the associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module comprises using a policy guide to feed the network identification/location pairs to the network interface module on a real-time basis.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for associating computer network identifications with network policies, said apparatus comprising:

a computer-readable storage medium storing executable software means comprising:

means for analyzing a network interface associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, including a first detector and a second detector, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface;

coupled to the analyzing means, means for determining that the first detector of the set of netspecs that outputs a first netspec is more reliable in observing network interfaces than the second detector that outputs a second netspec of the set of netspecs;

coupled to the determining means, means for awarding a higher priority to the first netspec than to the second netspec in response to the first netspec being output by the first detector and the first detector being more reliable than the second detector;

~~coupled to the analyzing means, means for sorting the set of netspecs in a priority order based at least in part on the reliability of the detectors that output the netspecs, wherein detectors considered more reliable in observing network interfaces than other detectors are awarded priority in the sorting;~~

coupled to the ~~sorting~~ awarding means, means for associating the network identifications made by the first and second netspecs of the set of netspecs with locations based at least in part on the priority order of the ~~set of~~ first and second netspecs; ~~and~~

coupled to the associating means, means for feeding associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement desired network policies; and

a processor configured to execute the software means stored by the computer-readable storage medium.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface module is a module from the group of modules consisting of a firewall, a router, a sniffer, an intrusion detection module, a behavior blocking module, and a network communications module.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the network interface module is a firewall, and the network policies are implemented on a packet-by-packet basis.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein locations are correlated with firewall settings on a distributed basis within the firewall.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the associating means further comprises:

a netspec database associating the netspecs with the locations.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising, coupled to the netspec database, a location setting module adapted to enable a user of the client computer to associate the locations with the netspecs.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the feeding means comprises:

a policy guide for associating the network identifications with the locations; wherein

the network interface module implements the network policies based upon the locations fed to the network interface module by the policy guide.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising, coupled to the network interface module, a user interface adapted to enable a user of the client computer to associate the locations with the network policies.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) At least one computer-readable medium containing computer program instructions for associating computer network identifications with network policies, said computer program instructions performing the steps of:

analyzing a network interface associated with a client computer using a plurality of network detectors, including a first detector and a second detector, the detectors outputting a set of a plurality of netspecs, each netspec comprising a first token identifying a detector used for the analysis and a second token identifying the analyzed network interface;

determining that the first detector that outputs a first netspec of the set of netspecs is more reliable in observing network interfaces than the second detector that outputs a second netspec of the set of netspecs;

awarding a higher priority to the first netspec than to the second netspec in response to the first netspec being output by the first detector and the first detector being more reliable than the second detector;

~~sorting the set of netspecs in a priority order based at least in part on the reliability of the detectors that output the netspecs, wherein detectors considered more~~

~~reliable in observing network interfaces than other detectors are awarded priority in the sorting;~~

associating the network identifications made by the first and second netspecs of the set of netspecs with locations based at least in part on the priority order of the ~~set of~~ first and second netspecs; and

feeding associated network identification/location pairs to a network interface module to implement desired network policies.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the client computer has a plurality of network interfaces and further comprising:

analyzing each of the plurality of network interfaces using the plurality of network detectors; and

analyzing the netspecs for the plurality of network interfaces output by the plurality of network detectors to identify a set of unique network interfaces;

wherein interfaces in the set of unique network interfaces are associated with locations responsive to the priority order.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing a user interface which allows a user of the client computer to set or change the priority order of the set of netspecs.

26. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein certain of the plurality of network detectors detect a first network interface and the netspecs output by the certain network detectors are awarded priority based on how reliable each of the certain network detectors is in identifying the first network interface,

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein associating the network identifications with locations further comprises:

selecting a netspec awarded a highest priority of the netspecs output by the certain network detectors identifying the first network interface;

looking up a corresponding location identifier for the highest priority netspec in a netspec database; and

associating the first network interface with a location identified by the corresponding location identifier for the highest priority netspec.